

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 8, 1999 LB 211, 422

LB 422.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: LB 422 is advanced. Mr. Clerk, LB 211.

CLERK: (LB) 211, Mr. President, introduced by Senator Schmitt. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 11 of this year, at that time referred to the Health Committee. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Chair recognizes Senator Schmitt, to open on LB 211.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Mr. President, members, LB 211 was introduced to ban smoking in the State Capitol Building, in all of the Capitol, I guess I should say, with no exceptions. I want to ban the smoking in the building because of several different reasons, but the State Capitol is one of our major tourist attractions. It's a historic building. We have thousands of school kids come in here every year, along with a lot of adult visitors from around the world, and right now there's smoking in the cafeteria. I'm not sure of other places throughout the building, but I know that one. Most of the people come in through the south door and they're in that smoke area when they're coming down the hallways there. The main reason for this was because we have so many other places in the state that are smoke free, some of the state office buildings are, vehicles that belong to the state are. Memorial Stadium is smoke free, and this is outside, and here we're allowing smoking in our State Capitol, the main building we have here in Nebraska for tourists, for the public. And I guess, as senators, we're probably shirking our duty as conservators, if we overlook the effect of smoke on the interior of this building, its finishes and its artwork, while appropriating millions of dollars to refurbish the exterior. Smoking has a cumulative and negative effect on the interior of the building, the tar, nicotine, and yellowing and sticky attract and hold dirt. And I'm not trying to say that all of the deterioration of the murals and pictures and stuff is here from smoking, but the smoking, the nicotine, tar, does help attract that dirt or hold that dirt in place once it gets there. And so that basically is the reason I have introduced this. This is the year where a lot of young people across the state are campaigning, doing different things to make